

On Call Inside the Blue

A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

Arlington Police Reunite Woman with Her Long Lost Class Ring

Nearly 23 years ago, Shelly Rhoads Ragland lost something of sentimental value and she thought she'd never see it again. The lost item was her 12-carat gold high school class ring.

Shelly eventually forgot about her loss until one day in December when she received a call from the Arlington Police Department. A residential burglary investigation led detectives to two suspects and stolen property, including a ring with her name on it.

Detective Eddie Green was glad to make the call. He said consumers don't typically record serial numbers for jewelry and many don't take the time to engrave items of value.

"From the name on this item, we were

able to locate the owner and return her ring," Green said.

Shelly said she's glad she spent the extra dollars many years ago to have her ring engraved.

"Mom was disappointed when I lost my ring," she said. "If she were here today, she'd be happy to know it's been found. I appreciate the Arlington Police Department for finding my ring and returning it to me."

Property Protection Tip:

Reduce the risk of having your valuable items retained by a thief for personal use or sold. Engrave your property.



Shield a Badge With a Prayer

Officers Continue National Program Started Locally By their Parents

A program that started more than 25 years ago inside their parent's southeast Arlington home is still going strong thanks to three police officers bound by a legacy of service.

The year was 1989 and Officer Tim Henz had been an Arlington officer for about six years when the Shield a Badge with a Prayer Program started. Peter was a Cedar Hill police officer and Pat was an officer in Fort Worth.

Arlington had about 350 commissioned officers and their parents matched each officer with a local resident who promised to say a prayer a day. Those who made the promise were given the officer's name and badge number. Other than sending an occasional greeting card through the department, the resident promised not to contact the officer unless invited to do so.

Today the program has expanded and is successful in communities



(Left to Right) Officers Peter Henz, Tim Henz and Pat Henz

across the world, including Canada. Greeting cards are sent to officers, providing support, inspiration and words of encouragement. Many of the rules set into place in 1989 remain the same today. No contact, phone calls, emails or gifts are allowed.

Although their parents have passed on, the brothers are carrying the program forward for a new generation of officers in Arlington and Tarrant County.

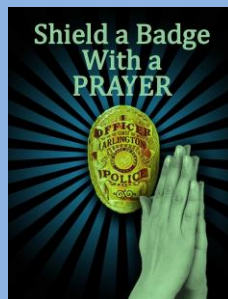
They recently built a web page to highlight

the origins of the Shield a Badge With a Prayer program and engage more of the Arlington community.

A daily prayer for safety, good judgment and a safe return home for each officer is an opportunity to show support for those who wear the badge, said Tim Henz.

"It is truly an honor to stand with my brothers today and carry forward what our parents started," Officer Tim Henz said.

To learn more about this program, [click here](#).



On Call

North District

Police and Hotels in Partnership for a Safer Stay in Arlington

Great things occur at the monthly meetings of the Hotel Association of Tarrant County.

Their first meeting of the new year occurred here in the North Police District at the Hilton Arlington.

For more than 25 years, the Hotel Association of Tarrant County has been a vital part of the local hospitality industry. The association exists to provide opportunities for idea exchange, community involvement, government interaction and continued education for its membership.

At the January meeting, Lt. Tracie Baker welcomed association members to Arlington. She spoke about the importance of staying connected with the Arlington Police Department.



Lt. Baker shared information about recent criminal cases involving good police work because hotel managers worked closely with detectives to share vital information.



Lt. Tracie Baker welcomes members of the Hotel Association of Tarrant County.



During their meeting, "Because We Care" cards were distributed to association members and everyone was encouraged to make these information cards available to hotel guests during check-in time as a reminder to always remove items from vehicles, roll up windows and set alarms.

Arlington hotels are an important component in our police department's crime reduction strategy. Through the active engagement of these members, we will continue to work together to help ensure that every visitor to our city has a safe and enjoyable stay in Arlington.

In the Community

A new class of leaders has enrolled in the **Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership Academy (ACAPP) Class #7**. To learn more about this program and how to enroll in future academy classes, call Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589.

Save the Date. **The Back the Blue Bash on Thursday, March 20** is sponsored by the Arlington Police Foundation. [Click here](#) for ticket information and more special event details.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call

South District

Make An Impact – Sign Up and Volunteer With APD in 2014

Get Involved! The Arlington Police Department has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. APD volunteers are dedicated to making their community a better place to visit, live and work, and we like to show them how much we appreciate their dedication.

At the South Police District, Office Coordinator Sharon Jones and Volunteer Coordinator Kathleen Mulkerin recently organized a volunteer appreciation dinner to express gratitude to our awesome community partners. Approximately 30 volunteers from the district attended the event. The meal included baked chicken, corn and green beans. My favorite part was the chocolate covered peanuts.

Police Command Staff and officers from the South District also stopped by to visit with and thank volunteers for their assistance.



Deputy Chief Jeff Petty highlighted all the great volunteer efforts going on within the department and thanked volunteers for their commitment.

This year, get involved and join the Citizens Assisting Police volunteer program. You never know how much of an impact you might make unless you take the first step and sign up.

Visit the department's new Volunteer Web page to explore the many opportunities that await. We look forward to seeing you around.

In The Community

The Arlington Police Department will celebrate the spirit of volunteerism on **Thursday, March 26** with a luncheon for APD volunteers. Awards, door prizes and more!

The Arlington Police Department is always looking for dedicated individuals who want to make a positive impact in their community. **Become a volunteer.** This new web page has everything you need to sign up and get involved. [Click here.](#)

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Ray Polk at 817-459-5732 or Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call

East District

Building Trust: Officer is a Hero at Roark Elementary School

On January 16, students, parents and teachers gathered at Roark Elementary School to meet a hero from within their community.

"Meet A Hero" night was held in the cafeteria and was organized by Allen Inness with the Arlington Independent School District.

Allen works closely with the community in an outreach capacity and his new "Meet a Hero" night program is aimed at getting more fathers involved in educational activities.

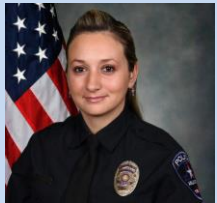
This Hero Night was the first of many more to come. The next one is planned for Adams Elementary School.

Officer Phillip Hill was selected to be the hero at Roark Elementary School.

He spoke with children, parents and teachers about what it's like to be an Arlington police officer and he talked about the education, training and discipline required to achieve goals.



Good interaction with children builds trust. When there is trouble, we want children to feel comfortable coming to us for assistance. At Hero Night, children also learned about the importance of calling 9-1-1 for emergencies.



Stranger danger was another important topic, and our hero wanted to make sure every child in attendance understood how important it is not to talk with strangers. They were also given instruction on what to do if a stranger approaches them.

There are many heroes in our community. A special thanks to Officer Hill for being the hero at this event, and thanks to all who are working to make programs like this a success inside of our schools.

Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalie Kuehling at 817-459-5817 or Maria.Kuehling@ArlingtonTx.gov.

In The Community

UNIDOS is connecting Hispanic communities with information with helpful resources. The next Unidos meeting is May 6. Call 817-459-5725 for information about upcoming.

Save the Date.

The **Arlington Apartment Managers** will meet Tuesday, March 11 at the East Police Service Center.

NEW on Social Media!

APD introduces "**Who's That Wednesday?**" Connect with APD on Facebook and tell us if you recognize the suspect in a theft case involving lottery tickets. You can also remain anonymous.

On Call

West District

Volunteers Help Make the Season Safer in the West District

This past holiday season was a very busy time for Arlington families. With the assistance of some of our most dedicated citizens, the holiday season was also a very safe one in the West Police District.

We all saw the Sky Watch towers in many of our popular retail areas during the holidays. Many volunteer hours were logged inside these towers, which provided officers with the extra eyes and ears to help identify and reduce criminal activity.

While shopping or dining, you may have received a Vehicle Burglary Report Card, another tool used to remind

citizens that they have the biggest impact on preventing crime. With the support of our officers, volunteers distributed more

than 1,000 burglary report cards during the holidays.

The final piece of the puzzle that helped to make the holiday season safer was the volunteers who make our Citizen On Patrol Mobile program such a success. COP Mobile volunteers recorded more than 100 hours in city-owned marked vehicles. They patrolled retail areas, restaurant parking lots, schools, parks and neighborhoods throughout the West Police District.

All of these resources combined to help deter crime in the West Police District and make the holiday season a very safe and enjoyable time for everyone. Thank you!



More than
1,000 BMW
Report
Cards
distributed.
Thank You!

In The Community

The Citywide Community Watch Coordinators Meeting is **March 4** at the West Police Service Center.

The Great Texas Warrant Roundup is **March 1 - 9**. Notices have been mailed to individuals with active warrants. Names are also posted [here](#). Residents with outstanding warrants can appear in person or contact Arlington Municipal Court to avoid arrest.

Did you know? The Arlington Police Department is now accepting applications for **Detention Officers**. [Click here](#) for details.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfely at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfely@Arlingtontx.gov.

Great Detective Work Nabs Online Scam Artist



Solid field investigation work recently led Arlington Police to apprehend a suspect who was stealing credit card numbers and using them fraudulently.

Two part-time officers assigned to follow up on fraudulently purchased amusement park tickets lead to a suspect.

According to police reports, the man arrived at Six Flags Over Texas to sell tickets he advertised on Craigslist when officers encountered him.

The officers detained the man and secured his laptop that later became instrumental to the investigation.

Detectives from the APD Economic Crimes Unit also got involved in this case. From their forensic work, they confirmed that this man was linked to credit cards used to purchase Six Flags tickets. Detectives also recovered photos of credit cards attached to pharmacy records of approximately 100 unassuming consumers.

Geo-tagging revealed that the photos were taken with the man's cell phone at a local drug store. Detectives confirmed that the man also worked at the drug store as a pharmacy technician.

Working closely with store managers, affected consumers were soon notified that their credit cards may have been compromised.

Because of the large number of victims impacted by this criminal act, the suspect in this case is facing a first degree felony and is charged with the fraudulent use/possession of identifying information.

Protect Your Credit Cards

Never leave your credit cards unattended. More credit card thefts occur in the workplace than any other single location.

If your credit card is programmed to access an ATM, protect your PIN number. Never write it down.

Don't delay. Report lost or stolen cards immediately.

Always check your monthly statement. Make sure the charges are yours. Report unauthorized charges to your credit card company.

Assistant Chief is Keynote Speaker at Youth Collaboration Breakfast

At the Ninth Annual Youth Collaboration Breakfast, Assistant Police Chief Laurretta Hill challenged the Arlington community to never stop making emotional deposits in our youth. She asked adults to continue to "fill children's minds with possibilities that allow them to achieve and dream big."

"No one made it here today without someone believing in them," she told about 200 community leaders gathered at the AISD Mac Bernd Professional Development Center on Jan. 24. "It costs us nothing to nurture and believe."

AISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos said "accelerating the dreams of Arlington youth requires everyone working together."



Assistant Chief Laurretta Hill with AISD Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos

"An engaged community is essential," he said. "When thousands of adults come together to nurture and give support to children, it's an awesome power."

The Youth Collaboration Breakfast was sponsored by the Arlington Alliance for Youth and celebrates the adults who support youth development. This program was organized by AISD Dropout Prevention Director Wendy Carrington.

During the event, grants were distributed to 14 Arlington nonprofit groups with community service projects slated for 2014. [Click here](#) for more information.

Have you heard?

Unidos is a NEW Hispanic community outreach program in Arlington, serving Spanish-speaking individuals and their families and connecting them with valuable information, services and resources.



Quarterly meetings are held at Sam Houston High School. Save the Date: The next Unidos Meeting is May 6. The topic is domestic violence. Call 817-459-5725 to learn more about Unidos and how you can get involved.



Join us on May 6 for Unidos!



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Send story ideas and comments to:

817-459-5384 or Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov

"Join Our Conversation 24/7/365"

